

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-07 INR-10 L-03 NEA-11

NSAE-00 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 USIA-15 TRSE-00

SAM-01 SAJ-01 SS-20 NSC-10 IO-14 ACDA-19 OMB-01 DRC-01

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R 161505Z FEB 74

FM USMISSION NATO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4113

SECDEF WASHDC

INFO USNMR SHAPE

USCINCEUR

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CINCUSAFE

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

CINCUSAREUR

C O N F I D E N T I A L USNATO 0860

E.O. 11652: GDS-12/12/31/80

TAGS: MCAP, NATO

SUBJECT: BASIC ISSUES OF NATO DEFENSE PLANNING; DEFENSE AGAINST ARMOR

REF:USNATO 6110; B. USNATO 0710; C. STATE 028977

SUMMARY: THIS MESSAGE REPORTS INFORMAL MEETING IN BONN ON 14 FEBRUARY, ATTENDED BY REPRESENTATIVES FROM FRG, UK, AND US MISSIONS TO NATO AND THE FRG ARMY PLANNING STAFF. PARTICIPANTS DISCUSSED POSSIBLE CONTENT OF NATIONAL BRIEFINGS ON PLANS TO PROVIDE ANTI-ARMOR WEAPONS FOR INFANTRY UNITS. DUE TO NEW FRG ARMY ORGANIZATION, BRIEFINGS WILL PROBABLY HAVE TO INCLUDE BRIGADE LEVEL AND EVEN SOME CORPS LEVEL UNITS IN ORDER TO FULLY DESCRIBE THE DEPLOYMENT OF NEW ANTI-ARMOR WEAPONS. MISSION RECOMMENDS THAT ANTI-ARMOR EXPERTS MEET PRIOR TO BRIEFINGS.
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END SUMMARY.

1. REPRESENTATIVES OF THREE MISSIONS TO NATO: FRG (CAPT ARENDT), UK (LEDLIE), AND US (B/G BOWMAN) AND THE FRG ARMY

PLANNING STAFF (COL MEDERT, MAJ WILLMANN) HELD AN INFORMAL MEETING IN BONN OF 14 FEB. US REP PRESENTED SUBSTANCE OF OUTLINE CONTAINED IN REF C.

2. FRG REPS ARGUED THAT PRESENTATIONS BASED ON MECHANIZED INFANTRY BATTALION WOULD NOT SHOW MUCH IMPROVEMENT ON THE PART OF THE FRG. THEY SUGGESTED THE INFANTRY MECHANIZED BRIGADE AS A BETTER ILLUSTRATION. ANTI-TANK WEAPONS WOULD BE AS FOLLOWS:

INFANTRY MECHANIZED BRIGATE - 3,900 MEN

2 TANK BATTALIONS	33 TANKS EACH
2 MECHANIZED INF. BN.	9 MILAN EACH
1 INFANTRY BATTALION	
1 ANTI-TANK COMPANY	9 TOW

3. FRG REPS ALSO EMPHASIZED THREE HELIBORNE BRIGADES AND HELICOPTER REGIMENT:

HELIBORNE BRIGADE - 2,100 MEN

2 INFANTRY BATTALIONS	20 MILAN EACH
1 ANTI-TANK BATTALION	30 TOW
1 BARRIER BATTALION	20 TOW

HELICOPTER REGIMENT

40 HELICOPTERS EQUIPPED WITH TOW

4. CONSENSUS OF MEETING WAS THAT BRIEFINGS SHOULD CONCENTRATE ON ANTO-RMOR EQUIPMENT STANDARDS FOR ARMY UNITS AND RATIONALE FOR THOSE STANDARDS. CHARACTERISTICS OF PARTICULAR WEAPONS SHOULD RECEIVE LESS ATTENTION.

5. MISSION RECOMMENDS MEETING OF ANTI-ARMOR EXPERTS IN LATE FEBRUARY OR EARLY MARCH IN WASHINGTON. WILL REPORT UK AND FRG VIEWS ON TIME AND PLACE OF MEETING AS SOON AS RECEIVED.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 11 JUN 1999
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 16 FEB 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: garlanwa
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974ATO00860
Document Source: ADS
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: 11652 GDS-12/12/31/80
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: NATO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740267/abbrythl.tel
Line Count: 89
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: n/a
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: USNATO 6110; B. USNATO 0710; C. STATE 028977
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: garlanwa
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 27 AUG 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: WITHDRAWN <26-Jul-2001 by maustmc, RDFRD>; RELEASED <27 AUG 2002 by garlanwa>; APPROVED <27-Aug-2002 by garlanwa>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: BASIC ISSUES OF NATO DEFENSE PLANNING; DEFENSE AGAINST ARMOR
TAGS: MCAF, NATO
To: STATE
SECDEF INFO USNMR SHAPE
USCINCEUR
USLOSACLANT
CINCLANT
CINCUSAFE

BONN
LONDON
CINCUSAREUR

Type: TE

Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005